



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

## Information Paper

### Flood Damage Reduction, Kickapoo River: LaFarge, Wis.



*The above shows the Kickapoo River valley and the LaFarge dam when construction was halted in 1975. The intake tower is in the foreground and outlet is at the top with the dam coming in from the right.*

#### Contact

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#### Location/Description

The LaFarge Project is located in the southwestern corner of Wisconsin, one mile north of LaFarge, Wis., in Vernon County. LaFarge is located approximately 40 miles southeast of LaCrosse, Wis. The project lands were acquired in the late 1960s and early 1970s for the construction of a flood control reservoir. The federal government acquired 8,569 acres in fee title with an additional 459 acres subject to restrictive flowage easements. Project construction was halted in 1975 as a result of environmental and economic concerns. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996 provided for the transfer of these properties to the state of Wisconsin and the Department of the Interior, to be held in trust for the Ho-Chunk Nation. The Ho-Chunk Nation has received 1,200 acres of culturally and religiously significant property, and the remaining 7,369 acres have been transferred to the State of Wisconsin, and are being managed by the Department of Tourism. Flowage easements have been released to the current owners.

#### Status

In accordance with the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996, the state of Wisconsin and Ho-Chunk Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Oct. 30, 1997. The memorandum identified the lands to be transferred to the Secretary of Interior and stipulated that the project lands shall be preserved in their natural state and developed only to the extent necessary to enhance outdoor recreation and educational opportunities. It includes a management plan for the project lands and contains a provision for future review of culturally and religiously significant sites. Site safety work has been completed on the water control features. Remediation of the abandoned farm sites and wells on the project lands is complete. Land transfer to the state of Wisconsin and the Department of Interior has been completed.

#### Additional

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT), working with the Federal Highway Administration, has completed a Record of Decision for the Highway 131 relocation identified in the project authorization. A contract has been awarded for constructing four new bridges, and work began in the spring of 2001. The roadway work is scheduled to be continued and completed in 2002. The Corps is reimbursing WDOT for the highway relocation work.

#### Authority

Section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1190) as modified by Section 814 of WRDA 1986 (100 Stat. 4169), and further modified by Section 361 of the WRDA 1996.

#### Fiscal

Project design and construction costs are 100 percent federal. Current operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent non-federal for the land transferred to the state, and the land held in trust by the Department of the Interior for the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Estimated Total Project Cost	\$17,000,000
Allocations through Fiscal 2001	\$7,472,000
Fiscal 2002 Presidential Budget Amount	\$5,150,000